

On behalf of Mr. Joe Paiva, Executive Director, VLER, the following information is provided as input to the weekly Cabinet Report:

8-12 October 2012

Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record

The Department of Defense (DoD) began sending case files electronically to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for more than 30,000 Wounded, Ill, and Injured Service members. The Electronic Case File Transfer (eCFT) module enables VA and the Military Services to meet the Secretary of VA and the Secretary of Defense's directive to create a paperless, searchable Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) claims file transferred between VA and DoD. Previously, hard-copy case files—including service treatment records (STRs), commanders' letters, narrative summaries, and compensation and pension examination reports—were sent via FedEx or other delivery methods. By utilizing a shared, paperless, and searchable system, the Military Services and VA will increase the accountability, efficiency, and transparency of the IDES process. Initial operating capability began for eCFT on September 28, 2012. A decision to expand this system nationwide is expected before year-end.